

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on September 4, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53, and 55 are amended, and claims 57-59 are added; as a result, claims 20-59 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully requests that a copy of the 1449 Form, listing all references that were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 21, 2002, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next official communication.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 20, 21, 23-25, 27-28, 30, 32, 34, 35, 37, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 48-53 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gotou (U.S. 5,001,526).

Independent claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53 are amended. Applicant believes that claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53, as amended, include elements that are not found in Gotou. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53 and their dependent claims be allowed.

Claims 20, 21, 23-25, 27-28, 30, 32, 34, 35, 37, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 48-53 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wada (EP 0 198 590).

Independent claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53 are amended. Applicant believes that claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53, as amended, include elements that are not found in Wada. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53 and their dependent claims be allowed.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 20, 21, 23-25, 27-28, 30, 32, 34, 35, 37, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 48-53 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotou (U.S. 5,001,526) taken with Joyner et al. (U.S. 5,429,955) and Wada (EP 0 198 590).

Independent claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53 are amended. Applicant believes that claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53, as amended, include elements that are not found in Gotou, Joyner et al., and Wada. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53 and their dependent claims be allowed.

Claims 22, 26, 29, 31, 33, 36, 38, 40, 43, 45, 47, 54-56 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotou (U.S. 5,001,526) with Joyner et al. (U.S. 5,429,955) and/or Wada (EP 0 198 590), as applied above, taken with Kimura et al.(U.S. 5,177,576).

Independent claim 55 is amended. Applicant believes that claim 55, as amended, includes elements that are not found in Gotou, Joyner et al., Wada, and Kimura. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 55 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claim 55 and dependent claim 56 be allowed.

Claims 22, 26, 29, 31, 33, 36, 38, 40, 43, 45, 47, and 54 are dependent claims and incorporate elements of the independent claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53. In view of the amendment to the independent claims 20, 25, 41, 49, 51, 53, dependent claims 22, 26, 29, 31, 33, 36, 38, 40, 43, 45, 47, and 54 also include elements that are not found in Gotou, Joyner et al., Wada, and Kimura. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 22, 26, 29, 31, 33, 36, 38, 40, 43, 45, 47, and 54 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 22, 26, 29, 31, 33, 36, 38, 40, 43, 45, 47, and 54 be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative (612) 373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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1/5/04

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 5th day of January, 2004

Name

Amy Moriarty

Signature

